

Hearing Aid Compatible Telephones  
WT Docket No. 01-309  
RM-8658

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Carrier Name, Address, Phone, Contact Person:

Texas RSA 8 South Limited Partnership  
d/b/a WESTEX Cellular  
West Loop 214  
P.O. Box 1329  
Stanton, Texas 79782-1329  
(432) 756-3826  
Darren Patrick, Office Manager

Counsel: Lukas, Nace, Gutierrez & Sachs  
Pamela Gist, Esq.  
1650 Tysons Blvd., Suite 1500  
McLean, Virginia 22102  
Ph. (703) 584-8665  
Email: pgist@fcclaw.com

Texas RSA 8 South Limited Partnership d/b/a WESTEX Cellular (“WESTEX”) seeks to avail itself of the temporary relief granted to TDMA carriers through September 18, 2006, as set forth in *Order on Reconsideration and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, WT Docket No. 01-309, FCC 05-122, released June 21, 2005, and codified in amended FCC Rule Section 20.19(c)(2)(i). WESTEX is eligible for TDMA relief because it is conducting a complete overbuild of its entire TDMA network and will complete the overbuild by September 18, 2006. Because WESTEX offers only three digital wireless handset models, it is also eligible for the de minimis exception set forth in FCC Rule Section 20.19(e)(1). Nevertheless, WESTEX offers two hearing aid-compatible handset models to customers that receive service from the overbuilt (*i.e.*, CDMA) portion of the network, and WESTEX makes available in each retail store it owns or operates these handset models for consumers to test in the store.

(1) Digital wireless phones tested: WESTEX operates a TDMA and AMPS cellular system, and is constructing a CDMA overlay. WESTEX acquires wireless telephone handsets manufactured by Motorola and Nokia (collectively, "Vendors"). WESTEX obtains from Motorola two hearing aid compatible (HAC) handsets rated M3 under standard ANSI C63.19-2005 ("Compliant Phones"). The models tested are Motorola V262 and V710. Vendors of TDMA handsets are not offering any Compliant Phones.

(2) Laboratory used: WESTEX does not conduct the laboratory testing of handset devices for compliance with the ANSI C63.19 standard. WESTEX relies upon its Vendors to conduct testing and to confirm the compliance of each specific handset device.

(3) Test results for each phone tested: The Compliant Phones deployed by WESTEX have tested positively for M3 compliance.

(4) Identification of compliant phone models and ratings according to ANSI C63.19: Motorola models V262 and V710 are rated M3 under standard ANSI C63.19-2005.

(5) Status of product labeling: WESTEX typically relies upon its Vendors to label all products prior to their shipment to WESTEX's retail locations. The Compliant Phones offered by WESTEX contain M3 product labeling and additional information.

(6) Outreach efforts: Now that Compliant Phones have become available they will be publicly identified for consumers and audiologists. WESTEX's Compliant Phones are listed on WESTEX's web site, and the information is available to consumer groups. WESTEX trains its retail salespeople regarding which of the three digital wireless phones offered are Compliant Phones. Written materials, pamphlets and other promotional literature are provided at the point of sale, addressing the needs of individuals with hearing disabilities. WESTEX conducts a consumer education program aimed at reaching hearing aid and cochlear implant users. Consumers are given a 30-day trial period within which to try out the digital wireless phone to determine whether they will work properly with their hearing aids. Flexible exchange and return policies apply to consumers seeking to obtain a Compliant Phone. Toward this end, WESTEX has specifically instructed its sales force to make this policy known to consumers, and to assure that the flexible policy is administered to HAC phone users. The sales staff has permitted trade up to a Compliant Phone at no charge. Additionally, WESTEX conducts outreach activities toward audiologists and hearing aid dispensers who are in a position to inform hearing aid users in advance concerning the immunity of their hearing aids and the degree of likelihood that they will be able to use particular digital wireless phones and services. Current technical and anecdotal information is made available to the public regarding the hearing aid compatibility of WESTEX's Compliant Phones in the form of handouts from

Motorola that are distributed at retail centers and in all communications with the hearing disabilities community.

(7) Retail availability of compliant phones: The Compliant Phones offered by WESTEX are presently available in WESTEX's retail outlets.

(8) Incorporation of hearing aid compatibility features into newer models of digital wireless phones: WESTEX is in contact with its Vendors with regard to their incorporation of HAC features into future CDMA phones. WESTEX is following its Vendors' efforts to provide additional new handsets that will be hearing aid-compatible.

(9) Activities related to ANSI C63.19 or other standards work intended to promote compliance with the FCC Order: WESTEX is aware that its Vendors are undertaking to comply with the FCC's requirements to provide Compliant Phones. WESTEX is ready and willing to offer new or additional compliant devices to interested customers, and will encourage its Vendors to expedite the availability of advanced handset devices, including handsets rated M3T under standard ANSI C63.19-2005.

(10) Number of compliant and non-compliant phone models offered at this time:  
Carrier's core assortment presently includes three models of CDMA handsets. Two of these are Compliant Phones.

(11) Differences in handset offerings among regions in service areas, if any:  
There are no differences in handset offerings among regions in WESTEX's service area. WESTEX's handset offerings are presently consistent in all areas of the market.

(12) Ongoing efforts for interoperability testing with hearing aid devices:  
WESTEX will rely mainly upon its Vendors to conduct interoperability testing of Compliant Phones, and will provide to consumers information about those efforts upon request.